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SUBJ: WIPO ELECTS NEW DG

¶1. At the opening of the General Assemblies of the member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva on September 22, Francis Gurry, an Australian national and previously WIPO deputy director general, was confirmed as the new WIPO Director General by acclamation. The confirmation concludes the lengthy process to force out and replace the scandal-plagued former DG, Dr. Kamal Idris.

¶2. Ambassador Tichenor, leading the USG delegation, presented statements lauding the change in leadership, first on behalf of Group B as its regional coordinator, and later, closing out the morning, on behalf of the USG. In his latter statement, the Ambassador remarked that the change in leadership holds great promise for the future of WIPO, and expressed the USG hope that the divisions of the past can be left behind.

¶3. The Ambassador also urged WIPO to follow up on the UN Joint Inspection Unit recommendation; implement the development-related proposals in the Committee on Development and IP; move forward on patent law harmonization; and manage WIPO's growth.

¶4. Other countries opened the meeting with gracious thanks to Dr. Idris, in varying degrees of effusiveness, and staked out familiar positions on the future work of WIPO. The assemblies will continue until the end of September. We will report on the activities of the Assemblies at their conclusion.

TICHENOR#